



## Rhode Island Livestock Welfare & Care Standards Advisory Council

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Minutes April 28, 2014

**Members Present:** Chairman Scott Marshall, State Vet; Secretary Al Bettencourt, RI Farm Bureau; Joe Warzycha, RISPCA; Christie Smith, Potter League; Debora Bresch, ASPCA; Rick Rhodes, URI

**Members Not Present:** Louis Vinagro

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Adoption of Livestock Welfare Standards

There was a discussion about the use of battery cages and enriched cages. The discussion centered on how much space the cages should allow for each hen. In general it was agreed that the only farmer who uses battery cages in RI should be allowed to continue to use them until they wore out (about 18 years from now). The discussion focused on how the farmer would replace the cages. Should we have broad language that indicated he should follow "industry standards" or should we specify how much space each hen should have? It was agreed that new farmers would follow whatever language we agreed on.

Motion: By Al Bettencourt, Second by Christie Smith that the term "Existing chicken farms," as defined in the Standards, be allowed to continue using existing battery cages until July 2034 at which time any replacement cages must provide a minimum of 116 square inches per hen. New farmers who wish to use cages must provide 116 square inches per hen.

Results: Motion passed 5-1. Debra Bresch asked to be recorded as voting no and she will issue a minority report.

Motion: By Al Bettencourt, Second by Rick Rhodes to adopt the Livestock Welfare Standards as amended.

Results: Motion passed 5-1. Debra Bresch asked to be recorded as voting no and she will issue a minority report.

**New Business:** There was no New Business.

**Next Meeting:** No meeting date was set.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Al Bettencourt  
Secretary